



16th Special Operations Wing

Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Aug. 30, 2001

Gen. Hester chosen as next AFSOC leader

The commander of U.S. Forces Japan will be the sixth commander to lead Air Force Special Operations Command.



Lt. Gen. Paul Hester

Lt. Gen. Paul Hester will assume duties from Lt. Gen. Maxwell Bailey, who retires, in December.

General Hester is being reassigned from Yokota Air Base, Japan, where he serves as the commander of U.S. Forces, Japan, and the 5th Air Force commander.

The general is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, where he earned a master's degree in accountancy.

He was commissioned through the University of Mississippi ROTC program.

He entered the Air Force in January 1971, and earned his wings in December of that year.

He also holds an additional master's degree in military arts and science from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The general's aviation career includes more than 2,600 flying hours in the A-7D, F-4, F-15 and the F-16 aircraft. (NFNS)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carrie Hinson

Airman 1st Class Chris Udell, a crew chief with the 4th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, connects external power to an AC-130U Spooky Monday, the first day of the Gunship surge.

Spooky surges to test readiness, gain hours

by 1st Lt. Julie deSylva
16th Operations Support Squadron

The 4th Aircraft Maintenance Unit and the 4th Special Operations Squadron teamed up this week to accomplish a 36-flight "surge" as a test of their wartime capabilities.

In a normal five-day week, the 4th SOS and 4th AMU schedule an average of 25 flights or five sorties per day. However during this shortened four-day week, the squadron scheduled nine sorties each day.

The idea of a surge began when Chief Master Sgt. Bruce Brandewie, 4th AMU maintenance chief, spoke with Lt. Col. Seth Junkins, 4th SOS director of operations, about the possibility of maintaining such a

rate in wartime. Mixed with the need for additional flying hours to meet the fiscal year goal, the idea of a surge started to make sense.

According to Chief Brandewie, the unit looked at what they could be tasked to do in wartime and realized they'd never sent that many aircraft up at one time for any kind of duration.

"We validated our actual wartime requirements. We treated this like a combat situation," said the maintenance chief. "And our people took it as a challenge."

Lt. Col. Hart Franklin, 4th SOS commander, saw it as a test of his squadron's capabilities.

"This is something like our 36-hour flight from here to Korea. Why do it? Because it

stretches the capabilities of our crews and our maintenance. I'm looking to see how far our squadron can go under pressure, and we don't know how far we can go until we test ourselves," he said.

"Some people are gung-ho and excited about it. We've done one day surges before but this was a highly intense effort," said Senior Master Sgt. Jeffery Henson, 4th AMU production superintendent.

With less than 15 Spookies in the 4th SOS fleet, generating nine sorties per day proved to be a challenge for both the crews and the maintenance people.

The plan started with sending three aircraft up each day for flights and then using

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Riflemen

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VIEWPOINTS

Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the **COMMANDO**.

I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you, and perhaps improve their process. However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.



Big bang

Col. Lyle Koenig, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, and Master Sgt. Dave Ayers, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit, look at C4 Saturday before attaching it to unexploded ordnance.

Housing speeders

Comment: I live in base housing and walk my dog every morning and evening. Our walks last between 30 to 45 minutes, during which time I see about two people obeying the posted speed limit.

I've stopped people and told them to slow down. I've taken license plate numbers and reported them to the 16th Security Forces Squadron, but nothing seems to slow them down. This morning was the final straw. I saw a white truck flying down the street so I stepped out and yelled at the driver to slow down.

The driver, a military member in uniform, just laughed at me and drove away.

It's very sad to me that we even need to address this as a problem when most of the speeders are parents.

Is a child going to have to get hurt or possibly killed before something is done?

Reply: Speeding in housing endangers our families, especially our children, and won't be tolerated.

I've instructed the 16th Security Forces Squadron to increase their patrols in all the housing areas to help alleviate this continuing problem.

Additionally, you will see an increase in bike patrols, especially in the housing areas.

If you witness someone speeding, get the license number, a description of the driver and report it to the Security Forces Control Center at 884-7777.

While the 16th SFS can't issue a citation in these cases they can contact the vehicle owner's first sergeant or commander and inform them of the occurrence.

This is a more prudent approach than stepping out into the traffic to slow a vehicle down. (Please see speeding article on Page 3.)

101 Critical Days ending, safety during Labor Day still paramount

by Staff Sgt. David Sharon
Safety Office

Labor Day weekend signifies the end of the "101 Critical Days of Summer" and provides Hurlburt Field members and their families with several days to enjoy social and recreational activities.

It also increases the potential for off-duty mishaps.

To date, Hurlburt Field's "101 Critical Days of Summer" safety campaign has resulted in zero fatalities and only eight reportable ground mishaps.

This was achieved because of a positive attitude throughout the base population and by people not taking unnecessary risks.

The primary areas of concern this Labor Day weekend are excessive vehicle speed, fatigue, drinking and driving, motorcycle safety and water activities such as boating and swim-

ming.

Vehicle operators shouldn't consider a soft drink, pack of crackers and one hour of sleep sufficient for 12 to 16 hours of continuous driving.

Vehicle operators shouldn't deceive themselves into thinking not wearing seat belts will ensure they're thrown clear of the wreckage and they'll land on something soft.

Be aware of the consequences of drinking and driving.

Many people have an unrealistic perception of the physical and psychological effects of alcohol on driving abilities.

Motorcycle operators should always wear the proper safety gear and never assume drivers will see them and yield the right of way.

Bicyclists should wear helmets for protection and

brightly colored or reflective clothing to be seen.

By using common sense and sound risk management people should be able to have a safe and enjoyable holiday.



"Be aware of the consequences of drinking and driving."

— Staff Sgt. David Sharon
Safety Office



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Production

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photography unless otherwise indicated. The COMMANDO staff may include or exclude articles based upon the news value determined by the staff, impact on the wing's mission, and the space allotted for editorial content by the publisher.

Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the COMMANDO is 4 p.m. Wednesday, the week prior to publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced and all submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call for questions.

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NEWS

Base driving a privilege, not a right

by Capt. David Ramirez
16th Security Forces Squadron

Recently there's been a steady rise in traffic complaints on Hurlburt Field – but more alarming is the increase of speeding in the base housing areas.

The 16th Security Forces Squadron issues 65 to 70 citations monthly for incidents ranging from speeding, parking violations, and expired tags, to reckless driving and driving under the influence.

"Using state of the art equipment for traffic enforcement is one way to curb these problems, but the one tool we rely on most is the individual driver," said Maj. Kenneth Andersen, 16th Security Forces Squadron commander.

"Contrary to popular belief, driving on an Air Force installation isn't an absolute right – it's a privilege," said the major. "When this privilege is abused, people not only can find themselves walking or having to find a ride to work, they create an unsafe environment for the rest of the base population."

The base people can make the biggest impact in helping to reduce the recent increase in traffic incidents, said Major Andersen.

"As a driver, you need to be aware of



Photo by 2nd Lt. Rosemary Heiss

Airman 1st Class Juan Lozada, a 16th Security Force Squadron senior patrolman, performs a routine speed check near the 6th Special Operations Squadron building.

the rules of the road and the penalties if you break them," he said. "You also need to be aware of your surroundings and use extreme caution when traveling throughout the base, especially in housing areas as we begin the new school year."

When someone is caught violating base traffic laws, the offense is recorded in a base driving record. For every ticket received, points are assessed to this record. Each violation has different points assigned based on its severity.

The most severe of these violations may warrant immediate suspension of one's driving privileges.

Additionally, the wing commander has the discretion to suspend the driving privileges of those he deems necessary. The entire point system is outlined in Hurlburt Field Instruction 31-204, *Motor Vehicle Supervision*, Chapter 5. Base housing residents are encouraged to report violators to the Security Forces Control Center at 884-6423, said Major Andersen.

"Don't take the law into your own hands," he said. "Get a complete description of the vehicle to include the make, model, color, license plate number and state. If possible, get a description of the driver, and be prepared to make an official statement at 16th SFS, so it can be forwarded to the violator's unit for action."

"Everyone needs to employ good common sense when operating a vehicle, said the major. "Slow down and obey the rules of the road – make Hurlburt Field a safe place for everyone to drive and live."

Do the math, points add up...

The point system applies to both military members and civilians. Military members may be assessed points while operating privately owned vehicles or government vehicles on the installation.

Military dependents, civilian employees, and all other individuals driving government or privately owned vehicles on base are subject to the point system.

Generally, points aren't given for non-moving violations, such as parking tickets. The local policy on base specifies three non-moving violations within a 90-day period results in a one-year's revocation of driving privileges.

The moving violations specify that 12 points within a 12-month period or 18 points within 24 months result in a loss of driving privileges for one year.

Some of the most common violations and the points assessed are:

- Failure to wear safety restraint devices of any kind: four points;
- 10-14 miles per hour over the posted speed limit: four points plus a 30-day suspension;
- 15-20 miles per hour over the posted speed limit: five points plus a 30-day suspension;
- 20 and over: six points plus 30-day suspension; and
- operating a radar detection device to indicate the presence of speed recording instruments or to transmit simulated erroneous speed: 3 points.

Upon receipt of a traffic ticket on base, the violator's copy of the Defense Department Form 1408 will have instructions to report the citation to the bearers commanding officer, supervisor or sponsor within 24 hours of their next duty day.

For more information concerning the point system used on base, call the 16th Security Forces Reports and Analyses section at 884-5131. (Editor's note: Article information was compiled by Staff Sgt. John Franke, 16th Security Forces Squadron)

Spotlight on ...



Senior Airman Melissa Holmes

Name: Melissa Holmes

Rank/Duty Title: Senior Airman/Material acquisition element supervisor

Organization: 823rd RED HORSE Squadron

Hometown: Orlando, Fla.

Hobbies: Basketball, softball and computers

Contribution to the mission: Airman Holmes expertly manages RED HORSE contractor-operated civil engineer supply operations in excess of \$500,000 for worldwide deployments and special projects. She ensures material is ordered, received, processed, stored and inventoried always resulting in 100 percent accountability, well ahead of project start dates. She's a member of the squadron's booster club, the base women's basketball team and the African American Heritage Committee.

(Editor's note: The *COMMANDO* highlights airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers on base who do a great job. All supervisors are encouraged to use this recognition program. Call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information.)

AIR FORCE NEWS

President picks AF general for top military post

WASHINGTON—Calling Air Force Gen. Richard Myers a man of “steady resolve and determined leadership,” President George Bush tapped the Kansas native to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during a news conference in Texas, Aug. 24.



Gen. Richard Myers

If confirmed by the Senate, General Myers would succeed Army Gen. Henry Shelton as the top uniformed officer in the U.S. military, and become the first Air Force officer to hold that post since Gen. David Jones (1978-1982). Bush also nominated Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, currently commander of U.S. Southern Command, to become vice chairman, replacing General Myers, who has held that position since March 2000.

President Bush, speaking before reporters at his ranch near Crawford, Texas, called General Myers “the right man to preserve the best traditions of our armed forces, while challenging them to innovate to meet the threats of the future. His is a skilled and steady hand.”

Those sentiments were echoed by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of the Air Force James Roche.

“I’ve had the great fortune to work closely with Dick Myers and with General Shelton over these past few months,” Secretary Rumsfeld said. “What I have come to know and expect of General Myers is candor, deliberation, judgment, keen insights, fiber and good humor. His career is the embodiment of the transformation with which he will be charged as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He’s a leader.”

Secretary Roche spoke confidently of the general’s qualifications for the job at hand.

“I’m extremely proud that President Bush has decided to nominate General Richard Myers to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,” he said. (AFPN)

AF assists young heart patient

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C.—Air Force people pulled together to give a 7-year-old Washington boy, in need of a heart transplant, a life-saving flight.

AC-17 Globemaster III, flown by reservists from Air Force Reserve Command’s 315th Airlift Wing here, transported the boy from Washington to Children’s Hospital in Pittsburgh.

The process of taking the boy from the Children’s National Medical Center in Washington to Pittsburgh started late Aug. 18 when a doctor at Children’s Hospital called the Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, to ask for help.

The doctor knew that the Air Force medical center had one of the only two Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenator machines in existence, and the only ECMO certified for flight.

The boy had recently undergone heart surgery and needed a new heart. He had been put into a near-coma state and would die if he didn’t receive help soon, doctors said. The military responded to the need, making the mission a top priority.

“This was unusual in that there are only two places in the United States that have the equipment necessary to make this type of move,” said Mark Mahar, senior duty officer in the Joint Patient Movement Requirements Center at Scott AFB, Ill. “We usually do one to three of these (missions) a year. Our regulations allow us to get involved if there’s no other outlet available. That was the case here. We knew that it was necessary to take action.”

When the C-17 arrived in San Antonio, the crew had to quickly figure out the logistics of getting all the needed equipment loaded and positioned for the mission. The biggest challenge was the ECMO stretcher, which is 6-feet long and weighs more than 1,000 pounds. It would hold the boy and all life-sustaining equipment.

“This was the first time I’d seen this machine,” said Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Plants, 315th AES charge medical technician. “We had to pick it up and move it from the ambulance onto the aircraft.”

The Charleston aeromedical team and a nine-member critical care team from Wilford Hall coordinated all their activities on the trip to Andrews AFB, Md., to pick up the patient.

“In this case, the CCT was to be responsible for the patient,” said Col. Sharyn Rotterger, 315th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron commander. “They knew what they are doing on the ground, but in the air things are different. We worked with the team to familiarize them with the aircraft and discussed other problems that they may have related to flight.”

After arriving at Andrews, the ECMO was unloaded as quickly as possible into an ambulance and taken to the Children’s National Medical Center. The boy was then trans-



Courtesy photo

Critical care team members from Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, administer in-flight care to a 7-year-old heart patient being transported from Washington to the Children’s Hospital in Pittsburgh.

ferred from his bypass machine to the ECMO stretcher and taken to the aircraft.

While the critical care team prepared the child for transportation, the 315th AES aircrew prepared the aircraft for the flight to Pittsburgh.

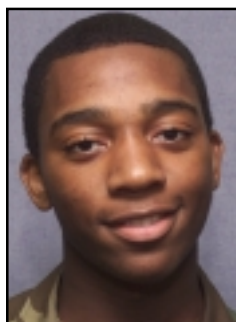
“We stayed in contact, getting updates on the their progress using our personal cell phones,” Sergeant Plants said. “They also came in handy when we realized we needed to locate an extra air compressor. The 89th AES at Andrews helped us locate everything that was needed.”

“When we got the word they were headed back, we prepared ourselves to lift the ECMO stretcher onto the aircraft,” he said. “We knew it would be hard this time with the patient strapped on it. We were lucky that the fire department at Andrews pitched in to help make the transfer.”

The child had seven IV’s connected and numerous tubes that required constant monitoring. His chest also hadn’t fully closed from the open-heart surgery, so the teams monitored the situation closely during the flight to Pittsburgh.

The boy has been placed on a waiting list for a new heart. (AFRCNS)

Look who’s talking: What’s the funniest thing that ever happened to you?



“I fell running, during physical training, in front of everybody.”

Airman 1st Class Daniel Horlback,
16th Communications Squadron



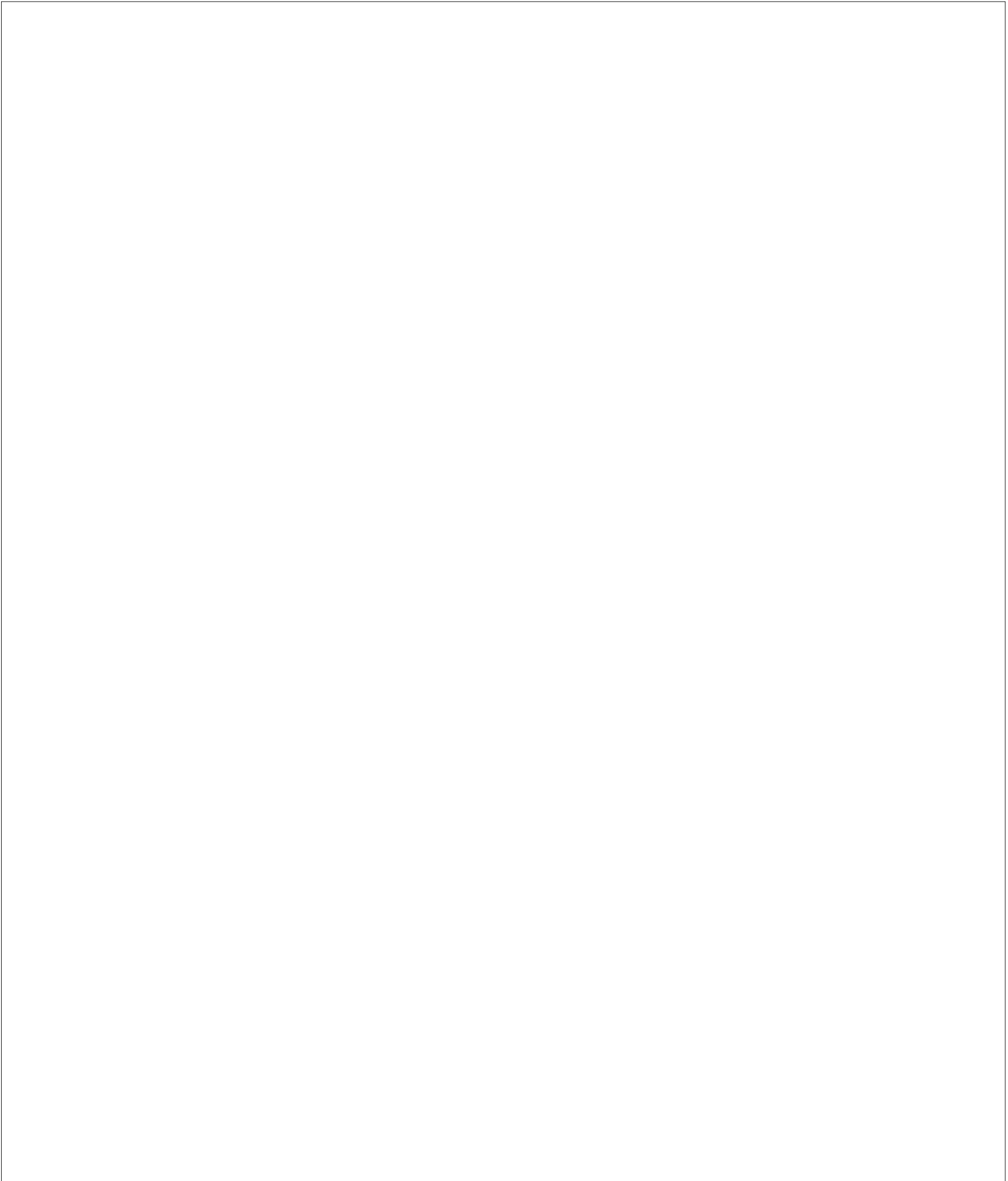
“I broke down in my car on the highway while I was on the way to Six Flags.”

Airman Elizabeth King,
16th Communications Squadron



“I got my car stuck in a sand trap at the picnic grounds. My senior NCO had to tow me out, but that’s what NCOs do – bail lieutenants out of trouble!”

First Lt. Michelle Dugan,
16th Support Group



*Officials offer
avenue for pay
problem resolution*

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE
BASE, Texas** – A newly arrived lieutenant at a Pacific Air Force base is not getting his overseas housing and cost-of-living allowance – a lot of money counted on to pay the bills. The first thought of local officials: It must be that new personnel database.

The lieutenant rolls his eyes. He has nowhere to turn. The system has screwed him up and he faces months of financial headaches. Or not.

The people in the Air Force Personnel Center’s customer service “call center” here are on the job and have information for the lieutenant immediately. Turns out the solution will come from a quick visit to his local finance office. It wasn’t the new personnel system after all, just a bit of information that needed to be updated.

Even if the culprit had been the personnel system’s new database, as with many of the calls lately, the call center would have been the right place to get the problem solved, if local officials couldn’t fix it.

“We get about 2,000 calls a week and have great success quickly resolving the problem or at least referring it to the experts, who work cases directly with the person having the problem,” said Master Sgt. David Melnick, call center superintendent here. “We like to cut through the bureaucracy for them.”

A snapshot of problems called in recently include:

- New officers not receiving correct pay and allowances;
- Re-enlistment and initial enlistment bonus problems; and
- Delayed payment of promotion increases for new promotees.

Things like that are a huge inconvenience and cause unnecessary stress in peoples’ lives, Sergeant Melnick said.

Often the issue is miscommunication between agencies, units or the servicemember and personnel or finance officials, so the best place to start is at the local level, he said.

“The professionals here are committed to getting people answers for those personnel issues that affect their lives,” said Col. Michael Schiefer, director of operations here. (AFPS)





Photo by Airman 1st Class Larry Deford

Master Sgt. Matthew Shryock, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit, helped detonate an unexploded ordnance found in Daphne, Ala., Saturday, before deploying to Al Jaber, Kuwait, with three other members of his unit, Tuesday.

EOD unit lends hand to neighboring state

by **Capt. Carol Kanode**
Public Affairs

"You guys have one of the few peacetime jobs that help you prepare for war, while at the same time you're helping the community," said Col. Lyle Koenig, 16th Special Operations Wing commander to a handful of Explosive Ordnance Disposal members Saturday.

Friday afternoon the 16th SOW EOD team, was called to respond to Daphne, Ala., about a one and a half hour drive away, where a fisherman had discovered an unexploded ordnance device submerged in water, which he delivered to the local police department.

"Normally the Army responds to anything found on the ground; the Navy handles unexploded ordnance in the water, and the Air Force covers any items found near the base," said Senior Airman Russ Henderson, an EOD journeyman with the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron. "In this case, we were the closest EOD team so

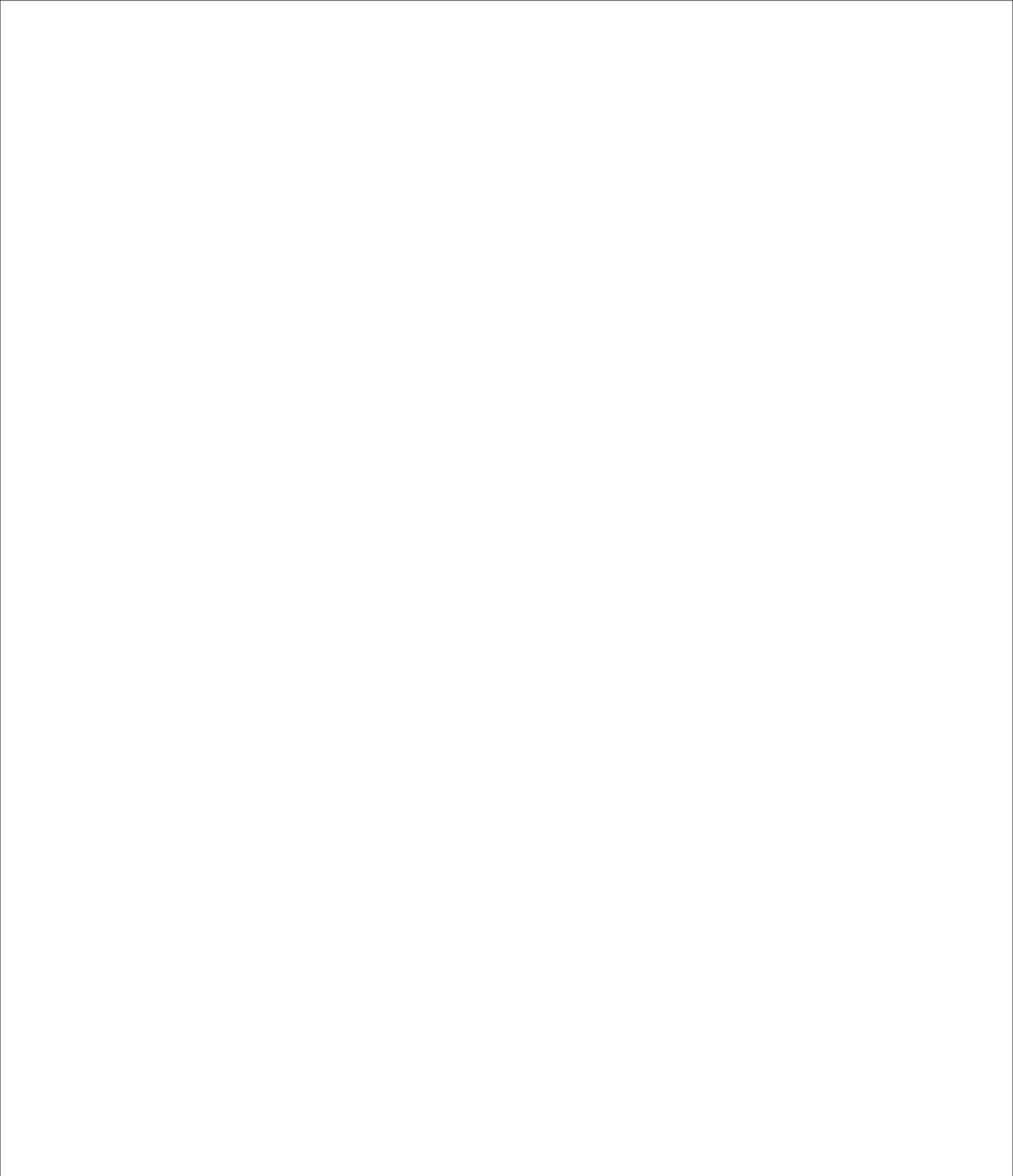
as a courtesy, we called the Army to let them know we were responding."

After receiving a description and nomenclature, or it's name designation of the device over the phone, EOD members suspected it to be a marker, similar to a flare, according to Master Sgt. Matthew Shryock, EOD craftsman.

When the three-man EOD team arrived, they discovered the device was a projectile, "like a big bullet," Sergeant Shryock said. It was a high-explosive Navy anti-aircraft round dating back to the 1930s. The three-inch ordnance didn't have a fuse and the sleeve had eroded almost completely due to corrosion from being in the water.

The team deemed it to be a hazard but felt there wasn't an immediate danger as long as it was stored safely until the next morning when they could bring their containment vessel, which is a specially made vehicle that can withstand a blast. They'd

See **EOD**, Page 13



Sports drinks provide needed electrolytes

by Staff Sgt.
William J.
Seabrook Jr.
Public Affairs

Drinking cool water remains the least expensive and most effective means of fluid replacement under normal working conditions.

However, during periods of prolonged, moderate to heavy work, people not only have to worry about fluid replacement but electrolyte or salt replacement as well.

Commercially available sports drinks can easily correct these losses

Heat and humidity are the two biggest seasonal factors that cause heat related illnesses and remain a top safety concern for the Air Force, said Maj. Michaela Demboski, 16th Medical Group's health and wellness center.

The key to preventing heat related illness while outdoors is to continually replace fluids lost due to sweating.

"When people are doing activities such as leisurely walking, weapons maintenance, marksmanship training or drill and ceremony, then plain water is the fluid replacement choice," said Major Demboski.

"However, more strenuous activities such as speed walking, running, patrolling, field assaults or defensive position construction, rob the body of more than just fluids."

When the wet bulb globe temperature is greater than 85 degrees Fahrenheit and the heat category is stage three or higher, fluid and electrolyte or salt loss can become excessive.

"Drinking commercially available sports drinks can help replace the electrolyte and salt loss," said the major. "The drinks should be diluted to half strength (1 part water and 1 part beverage) for optimal fluid re-

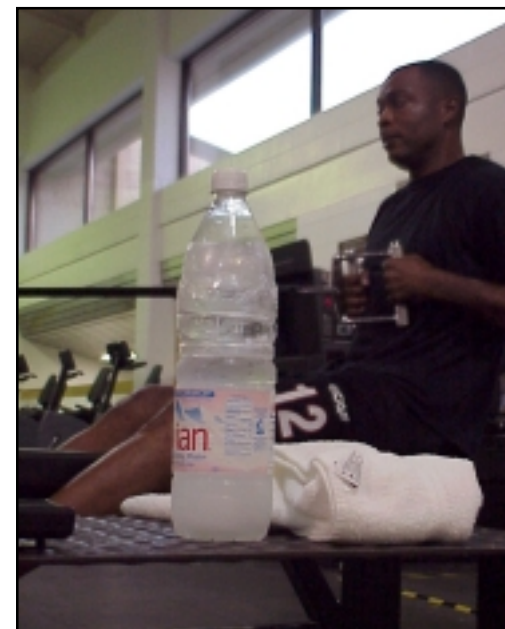


Photo by 2nd Lt. Rosemary Heiss

Tech. Sgt. Mark Forbes, 16th Supply Squadron, keeps cold water near during his work out at the main fitness center, Friday.

placement."

Diluting the drink ensures the carbohydrate content of the drink doesn't exceed 15 percent.

Excessive amounts of carbohydrates have been shown to slow the absorption rates of fluid and therefore slowing the rehydration process.

Diluted sport drinks should be kept cool (60 to 70 degrees) to avoid bacteria contamination, according to Major Demboski.

Carbohydrate or sugar content and heat provide a good growth medium for bacteria.

"Heat illness and dehydration are very real threats to Air Force people and can impact mission accomplishment by causing everything from impaired judgment, fatigue, headaches and lightheadedness to possible incapacitation and in extreme cases death," said Major Demboski.

"People must implement fluid loss preventive measures when doing anything outdoors and sports drinks are just another tool to add to the arsenal to keep us safe and healthy."

Sports drinks can only be purchased with unit funds after approval by the 16th Medical Group commander, Col. Mark Ediger, according to Maj. Tim Smart, 16th Comptroller Squadron commander.



U.S. Customs stops contraband parcels

MANNHEIM, Germany—U.S. Customs and military postal officials are intercepting increasing amounts of contraband in parcels mailed from Europe to the United States.

During the last three months, U.S. Customs officials at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago have intercepted numerous parcels containing illegal drugs, alcohol, weapons, hazardous materials and government property. The packages were mailed from overseas military post offices.

This is significantly raising interest at entry points in New York, Washington and Dallas, according to U.S. European Command customs officials.

Increased inspections of military mail will result in further delays, said Michael L. Burkert, director of the USEUCOM's customs executive agency.

Violations of customs, agriculture or mail regulations can result in confiscation of the goods involved and can lead to hefty fines.

Postal officials in Europe also say many people fail to properly complete customs forms and Federal Aviation Administration statements, and often list an illegible or incorrect return address.

Many products are banned from import to the United States outright, and others may be carried in baggage but not mailed. Meat and meat products are one big problem.

"European delicacies like French pâté, German wurst, Spanish chorizo salami and Italian ham are here for the buying, and much sought-after in the states," said Delcio Rivera, U.S. Department of Agriculture adviser to USEUCOM.

"Unfortunately they can also carry the spores of foot and mouth disease, a virulent livestock ailment eradicated in the United States," he said.

Meat products, all canned meats and even soup mixes or tortellini containing meat are banned.

Fresh fruits and vegetables are also prohibited because they could harbor pests like the Mediterranean fruit fly, Mr. Rivera said.

The threat to U.S. agriculture is so great that the USDA fines

people who are caught mailing or carrying banned foods to the states," he said.

Typical fines can range from a minimum of \$100 to criminal action for deliberate smuggling, which can lead to a \$5,000 fine and one year in prison.

Recently, a military spouse traveling in Germany mailed some garlic with dirt clumps to the states. Postal officials said the USDA fined her \$650.

Many of the finest wines and spirits come from Europe. Europeans even produce liquor-filled candies that make original gifts.

"Unfortunately, the U.S. Postal Service bans all liquor from being mailed, even if it's inside a piece of candy," Mr. Burkert said.

Liquor found in parcels mailed to the states is confiscated and destroyed.

"Wildlife products also present problems. Buying ivory overseas is a bad idea," he said. "Only ivory pieces registered with the U.S. Customs Service may be imported."

Whale teeth carvings known as netsuke or scrimshaw are also prohibited from import, he said.

Shoppers should insist on a certificate of origin stating the animal's scientific name to avoid buying items produced from prohibited endangered species. The movement of caviar is also restricted and people aren't allowed to mail it over international borders.

Another product to avoid is the oriental water pipe. Known as hookahs, chillums or bongs, these pipes may look cute on a mantelpiece but customs officials consider them drug paraphernalia.

Consequently, they aren't allowed into the country.

Although Cuban cigars and other Cuban products are often available overseas, imposed economic sanctions prohibit bringing them into the United States, Mr. Burkert said.

"And counterfeit, trademarked items are also banned from the mail," he said.

For more information the U.S. Customs pamphlet, *International Mail Imports*, is available at all military customs offices, or on the U.S. Customs Web site at www.customs.ustreas.gov. (AFPN)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carrie Hinson

Staff Sgt. Alfred Gonzales, 4th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, looks over a refuel job guide in preparation to refuel an AC-130U Spooky Gunship, Monday.

GUNSHIP

Continued from Page 1

those aircraft again, along with three others for six night flights, to generate nine sorties every day.

Normally, maintenance schedules four hours to turn a bird and make it operational again since every aircraft that lands requires at least basic service and an inspection, said Chief Brandewie. About 60 to 70 percent of the aircraft that land also need work beyond the basic servicing and inspection.

Maj. Don Bellinghausen, 4th SOS assistant director of operations, said this was as close as a crew can come to combat.

"We didn't expect to be flawless. We expected to learn a lot from the experience."

The maintainers normally recover two birds in the morning and three in the evening, said Sergeant Henson.

This week things were quite different. The maintenance people needed to recover and make mission-ready three aircraft for the morning flights and six aircraft at night.

"We had six take off within two to three hours and then had to recover them in a two to three hour window," explained Chief Brandewie.

And once they were down, they needed to be ready to fly within 24 hours; some in less than eight.

"We had all night to fix them," said the chief. "It's a psychological boost to know you can do it."

The flights consisted of tactical requirements and not just the simple pilot proficiency flights so the aircraft got a work out, said Chief Brandewie.

In addition, the crews relied heavily on their current operations flight and scheduling to accomplish all their taskings, said Major Bellinghausen.

The success of such an unprecedented event relied on total team effort. Every maintainer and every crewmember pulled their load, said Colonel Franklin, who flew most of the nights this week.

"We needed everybody. It was challenging for us as well as maintenance, the commander said. "We set the bar really high to see what we were made of."

HURRICANE!

The key to survival is preparation.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Larry Deford

Following the explosion, Staff Sgt. Eric Semmler, EOD, wrapped up the remote firing device which received the signal to detonate five pounds of explosives.

EOD

Continued from Page 7

transport it back to Hurlburt Field and detonate it there safely.

About 8 a.m. Saturday, two EOD members traveled back to Alabama, carefully loaded the device and returned here by mid afternoon.

Awaiting them was Colonel Koenig, who was curious to see the device and see it exploded.

He helped them attach 3.75 pounds of C4 to the device, then retreated to a bunker about 500 feet away.

Staff Sgt. Eric Semmler, initial team chief responder, called out, "Fire in the hole," in all directions three times before Colonel Koenig pressed the remote firing device, initiating the explosion.

EOD members estimated that the C4, combined with the explosives in the round, created about a five-pound blast.

Following the deafening boom from the bunker, Sergeant Semmler returned to the site to ensure no residual C4 remained and that the area was safe. Then, with the air heavy with a nitrate smell, Colonel Koenig and the other EOD members returned, seeing no clues of the device's existence.

"The munition is obliterated, pulverized and part of the Earth now," remarked Sergeant Semmler.

"I respect what these guys do, and the professionalism they display when they're doing their job here and supporting the community," Colonel Koenig later said about the EOD team.

FEATURE

Physician assistant succeeds with caring hand, listening ear



Photo by Airman 1st Class Larry Deford

Capt. Christina Little, a physician assistant with the 16th Medical Group, performs an ear exam on Airman Basic Joan Custodio, 16th Medical Operations Squadron.

by **Staff Sgt. André Nicholson**
Public Affairs

Many times while preparing to write a story, a writer has to research material and find people to interview to ensure the information and facts are reported correctly.

In the process of writing this story, several people have come forward to tell how they feel about Capt. Christina Little, a physician assistant and health care integrator with the 16th Medical Group.

Tech. Sgt. Karen Guilmette, a family readiness manager, 16th Mission Support Squadron, feels so deeply about expressing her gratitude to PA Little just beginning to talk about her involvement with the captain almost brings her to tears.

Sergeant Guilmette has been ill for a number of years and was introduced to the care of PA Little through her assignment as the primary provider for Sergeant Guilmette's squadron.

Throughout her care with PA Little, she has had ups and downs with her health and was recently diagnosed with Graves Disease. The disease is treatable but not curable, Sergeant Guilmette said, and it causes her to have major fatigue.

Before her diagnosis, not knowing what the illness was weighed heavily on her mind and body. "I'm so very grateful she took the time to make it better. It's evident that she's passionate about her job because it shows in the way she treats her patients and listens to what they have to say," said Sergeant Guilmette, whose currently undergoing treatment at Sacred Heart Hospital, Pensacola. Her health has improved dramatically over the past few months since her treatment,

and she credits it to PA Little, simply because she took the time to listen to her and refer her to someone who could help, she added.

PA Little normally deals with patients concerning their health, but Capt. Jeff Lustick, area defense counsel, deals with her on different matters. "Christina gives me answers about certain drugs and the effects they have on the body," he said.

"When it comes to your health, it's extremely important to deal with someone you can trust. I have a lot of confidence in her judgement and performance," Captain Lustick said.

Trusting and truly caring is something that can't be faked, said Col. Kent Mueller, director of logistics, Air Force Special Operations Command. His wife Brenda, was diagnosed with breast cancer and has been under the care of PA Little since her diagnosis. "Captain Little can be attributed with being a big part of why my wife made it through that shattering diagnosis," he said. "She makes you feel like you're the only patient she has."

That's one reason Terrie Griggs, who recently separated from the Air Force would love to have PA Little as her civilian primary care provider. Mrs. Griggs was assisted by PA Little during her medical evaluation board and credits her with having a great memory. "She remembers things even if they happened six months ago. She remembers conversations she had about your family and the personal things going on in their lives, as well as the treatment they've received," Mrs. Griggs said.

She once told the 16th Security Forces Squadron commander if the members of his squadron needed her and the appointment desk couldn't fit them in, they

could page her and she'd somehow make herself available. Mrs. Griggs said, that's something that stuck in her mind and shows the dedication that PA Little has to her patients.

Another patient of PA Little's is Jean Hummel, wife of retired Master Sgt. Mark Hummel, who said her direct approach is one reason she's so fond of her. "I respect the fact she isn't afraid to say 'I don't know but will find out for you.' She doesn't just deal with the individual, she takes the whole family unit into consideration. She's a unique individual," Mrs. Hummel said.

Over the years Mrs. Hummel and her family have dealt with several military medical facilities, and she feels she has received better care and treatment at Hurlburt Field's clinic than at any other, and said the clinic has made some positive changes over the past five or six years.

"I hate to sound cliché, but she really goes above and beyond," said Rosalie Winters, wife of retired Col. Marty Winters. "The one thing that comes to mind is simply above and beyond," Mrs. Winters said. The treatment she provided her family was more empathetic and more personal, she added, and in order to provide that kind of care, you truly have to enjoy it.

When asked why she thinks her patients feel so highly of her, she jokingly responded, "I can't brag on myself, so I'll let them do it." It's obvious that's not a problem for her patients.

Many of her patients agreed she's a great listener and quick to return their calls. PA Little credits that to when her first son was an infant and he had an ear ache. After taking him to the pediatrician, the doctor actually called her at home on a Saturday to see how her son was doing. She said, that kind of sincerity stuck with her, and that's what she tries to project to her patients. "I feel that I was blessed with a talent and I want to give back," PA Little said.

Listening is a big part of her job. She believes people know their bodies; they know when something isn't right, and they just need someone to hear that and help find a solution, she said. She credits her training for her ability to treat patients, but much of it she gets from just doing it. "You can only learn so much from school. You have to get out there and just do it," she added.

She has a systematic approach to caring for people and it simply involves listening to what they have to say, trying to figure out what's wrong and if she can't, she refers them to someone who can. Of course she makes it sound easier than it probably is, but in a nutshell that's her philosophy on administering care.

One thing she deeply believes is, "If you have peace of mind, your body will follow. If you can ease the mind, then you can get the body healthy," she said.

Although she's a petite woman, she has a presence that's bigger than most can imagine. When she speaks about her chosen career it's apparent she has a passion and enthusiasm for what she does. She admits the hours are long, sometimes close to 70 hours per week, but the work, she said, is satisfying and fulfilling.

She's proud she's never had a customer complaint or anyone disenroll from her care, and if her current patients have a say in it, she probably never will.

Colonel Mueller describes her as an "icon of thoughtfulness and the epitome of military medicine - she's what I would call a health care hero."

LIFESTYLE

Military

Chapel positions

The Hurlburt Field Base Chapel is accepting sealed bids for the positions of Catholic Auxiliary Chaplain, Catholic Deacon and 10 a.m. Contemporary Worship Leader. Bids should be submitted by the end of day Sept. 17. A statement of work for these positions can be obtained at the chapel from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call Staff Sgt. David Vigil or Senior Airman Tiffany Weir at 884-7795.

Team leaders needed

The Commando Pride Airman Center is looking for highly motivated individuals to serve as team leaders. Duties include assisting with the daily operations of CPAC. The detail is a 120 days in length, starting in September. To qualify you must be between the ranks of Senior Airman (and have completed Airman Leadership School) through Technical Sergeant, with impeccable dress and appearance, high moral character, a driver's license, good communication skills, computer skills and a desire to assist first term airmen. For more information, call Master Sgt. Andrew Hollis at 884-5795 or 5787.

TMO survey

People inbound from a Full Service Moving Project test location should provide feedback about their move to the FSMP Web site www.dodfsm.com or send an e-mail directly to the Air Force representative, Lt. Col. Dave Holt at holtd@mtmc.army.mil. Members should be contacted within two weeks after shipment delivery to conduct a customer satisfaction survey, but can use the e-mail addresses listed if they aren't. E-mails will require name, rank, return e-mail address and phone numbers.

Community

Job fair

Okaloosa-Walton Community College sponsors the Panhandle Job Fair Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the campus in Niceville. Employers from all over the U.S. with mechanical, engineering, technical, law enforcement, clerical and other career field openings.

Air Force Ball

The VFW sponsors an Air Force Ball Sept. 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the VFW post 7674 located at 213 Carol Ave. Fort Walton Beach. Dinner is \$15 per person and includes steamship round or ham and raisin sauce along with complimentary toast table wine. Guest speaker is retired Brig. Gen. Harry Aderholt. For tickets contact, Jamie Conley or Mary Pearson at 244-3834.

Self-defense seminar

A free women's self-defense seminar is offered Sept. 7 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Niceville Taekwondo Dojo next

to Dollar General. The class is taught by Master Morris and will demonstrate effective self-defense techniques and how to be aware of your surroundings. Women between 12 and 15 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 729-2992.

Rental scam

The British Ministry of Defense Police and Air Force Office of Special Investigations are conducting an investigation into a company that rents vehicles to U.S. and other authorized people in and around the RAF Lakenheath, Alconbury and Mildenhall areas within the United Kingdom.

The company may have charged for damage to rental vehicles that never occurred and U.S. people may have been deceived into paying other fraudulent charges for vehicles. In order to establish if you've been subject to the frauds committed by this company and you're stationed at Hurlburt Field, contact AFOSI Detachment 309 at 884-6102.

Locks changed

The housing office changes locks on the recreational vehicle lots Sept. 14. People who have a RV or boat stored in any of these lots are required to go by the housing office, building 90371 to register their RV and receive a key for the new lock. The housing office is open from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 884-7505 or 4896.

Spouses club

The Hurlburt Field Officer's Spouses' Club holds its monthly meeting Sept. 18 at 10:30 a.m. at The Soundside. Lunch is \$10 and includes salmon en croute with steamed vegetables or chicken ceasar salad. Childcare is available through the child development center and reservations should be made by Sept. 11. Luncheon reservations should be made by Sept 13, through Pat Rogers at 678-9375 or Danielle Wolf at 916-0963.

Autopride closure

Starting Sunday the automotive department of Hurlburt Field Autopride closes on Sundays. The shoppette remains open 24 hours. For more information, call Elena Bedner at 678-6842 extention 221.

Labor Day celebration

The Eglin Beach Community Center in Destin hosts their pre-Labor Day celebration Sept. 2 from 11 a.m. through 6 p.m. The events kicks off with music by the American D.J. and there's food, beverages and lots of fun. It's free to all military members and civilian DOD cardholders.

Native-American/Indian Heritage

November is Native-American/Indian Heritage Month. This year's theme is "Reflecting Our Traditions In a Contemporary World." Spouses, civilians and military members who'd like to serve on the committee can attend weekly meetings. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Lynetta Williams at 884-8746 or Master Sgt. Bryan Osborne at 884-6844.

Hurlburt Field Chapel (884-7795)



Catholic Masses

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:30 and 10 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.

Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:45 a.m. (praise & worship),

1:15 a.m. (traditional),

2:30 p.m. (Gospel)

Youth and Single Groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel 1

Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of

each month, 7 p.m., Chapel annex

Muslim Services (882-2111)

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.

At the movies



Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field (884-7648)

Friday – (R) "Kiss of the Dragon," starring Jet Li and Bridget Fonda – Liu Juan, China's top government agent, arrives in Paris from Shanghai to carry out a sensitive, top-secret mission. Liu is in Paris to assist Richard, an unorthodox police official with a small army to back him up. The mission goes horribly wrong, as the man Liu had come to help, betrays him.

Saturday – (PG) "Cats and Dogs," starring Jeff Goldblum and Elizabeth Perkins – There's a secret war being waged in the homes and neighborhoods of Earth that the humans don't even know about. An eternal struggle between two great armies: the cats and the dogs. Cats plan to destroy a new vaccine that if developed, would destroy all human allergies to dogs. The dogs try to stop the cats from destroying the vaccine.

Sunday – (PG-13) "Pootie Tang," starring Lance Crouther and Wanda Sykes – Pootie Tang is the ultimate super hero. A cool walking smooth talking ladies man. Everyone looks up to Pootie except for the evil Dick Lecter, the CEO of the company that makes cigarettes, alcohol and fast food.

Eglin (882-1066)

Friday and Sunday – (PG-13) "Final Fantasy," a computer generated cast of characters – In the not too distant future, the earth is invaded by aliens. Great cities are deserted, populations are decimated, alien beings have taken over the planet. Aki Ross and her mentor, Dr. Sid and the few humans that remain must find a way to survive the invasion and reclaim the planet.

Saturday – (PG-13) "Legally Blonde," starring Reese Witherspoon and Luke Wilson – Elle has a cute boyfriend, who dumps her saying she's "too blonde" and not "serious" enough for his future political career. She applies and is accepted at Harvard Law School and is soon one of the best in her class.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm scheduled play dates.)

LIFESTYLE

Community

Car giveaway

There's an Air Force Club Ultimate Membership Drive now through Nov. 18. Current Hurlburt Field club members not only receive \$5 for each new member they sign up, but they're also entered in the drawing to win a car. All new members will be eligible for cars that'll be presented to a nine lucky people who join any club worldwide. For more information, call 884-6469 or go by J.R. Rockers.

Hispanic heritage committee

Everyone is invited to be a part of the 16th Special Operations Wing Hispanic Heritage Committee. Meetings are every other Tuesday in the military equal opportunity classroom, building 90210, room 244. For more information, call Master Sgt. Bryan Osborne at 884-6844.

Fund raiser

Fat Tuesday's restaurant in Destin is sponsoring a fund raiser from 6 to 10 p.m., today for the family of Joseph "Mike" Michalowski III. Mike suffered a heat stroke at the Hurlburt Field Fitness Center in July while com-

pleting a fitness test to be commissioned into the U.S. Marine Corps Officer Program. Mike worked at the restaurant and the bartenders on staff would like to assist his family with finances by contributing all their earnings for the night to the family. There will be happy hour prices all night and entertainment will be provided. For more information, call Kirstie Bartleson at 863-1473.

Shelter volunteers needed

Shelter House Incorporated, the certified domestic violence center for Okaloosa and Walton Counties is looking for dedicated volunteers to work in the shelter answering phones to provide crisis counseling, screen new clients, work with youth programs and assist with residents in the shelter. Volunteers must be 18 years old and complete a training course. To register or for more information, call the Shelter House at 863-4777.

Classes

USAF Special Ops school

The following courses are offered at the U.S. Air Force Special Operations School. For more information on the USAFSOS courses, call 884-4731 or check the Web site hurlburt.af.mil/usafsos.

mSpecial Operations Forces Senior Enlisted Course
mIntroduction to Special Operations Course
mJoint Special Operations Planning Workshop
mJoint Psychological Operations Course
mCommander's Responsibilities Course, Force Protection Level III

FSC

For more information on family support center classes, call 884-5441.

Transition Assistance Program – Tuesday through Thursday, at 7:20 a.m.

Moms, Pops and Tots – Tuesday for ages birth to 2 and Wednesday for ages 2 to 4, at 10 a.m.

Bundles for Babies - Wednesday, at 1 p.m.

Readiness – Thursday, at 9 a.m.

Sports

Basketball officials needed

There's a meeting at the Hurlburt Field Commando Fitness Center Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. for anyone interested in officiating basketball games at Eglin Air Force Base or Hurlburt Field. The meeting will provide information for this year's intramural and youth activity games. For more, call Roy Spencer at 581-4587.

SPORTS

Base marksmen win honors at National Rifle Matches



Kip Giles, 4th Special Operations Squadron, demonstrates the prone shooting position, one position used when competing.

by Staff Sgt. André Nicholson
Public Affairs

The National Rifle Matches are an annual event of rich historical background, held continuously at Camp Perry, Ohio, since 1907.

This year, three Hurlburt Field NCOs

and one officer participated in the 2001 National Rifle Matches as members of the U.S. Air Force National Rifle Team.

As many as 1,200 military and civilian riflemen competed shoulder to shoulder for up to two weeks in a number of individual and team matches, all fired from distances ranging from 200 to 1000 yards.

Team members from Hurlburt Field included Kip Giles, 4th Special Operations Squadron; Bill Walter, Air Force Special Operations Command; Bob Zills, 15th SOS; and Brad Pufpaff, 4th SOS.

Walter, a 10-year veteran of the Air Force team and team NCO in charge, took first honors when he won a silver medal in the National Trophy Individual match. He then followed by winning the General Thomas White trophy during the National Trophy Team match. The trophy is awarded to the highest scoring Air Force competitor (active, guard or reserve) during the match. This year's award was the second consecutive win of the General Thomas White Trophy by Walter.

This was the first trip to Camp Perry for Giles and Pufpaff and they performed very well, Walter said.

During the National Championship Matches, Giles and Pufpaff made a nearly unprecedented clean sweep of the Marksman Class with Giles taking first and Pufpaff second. Their performance resulted in an upgrade to the expert classification level.

During the prestigious 1000 yard Wimbledon Cup match, Walter competed against 322 of the most skilled long-range shooters in the country with his self-built 6.5mm x .284 RPA match rifle.

During his relay, shooting from the prone position using only a shooting coat and sling for support, he placed all 20 of his record shots into a 20-inch "10" circle and nine of those into a 10-inch inner "X" circle, used to break ties. His shots resulted in a perfect 200 score with nine "X," winning the High Master match rifle class and placing fourth overall of 322 competitors.

(far right) A display of long range rifles, used by the Air Force team during competition.
(right) Brad Pufpaff, 4th SOS uses a spotting scope to check wind conditions down range.

